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*Crusade in China*  
*1938-45*

## BOOKS

*McGuane Again*

## GENERAL

THE U.S. CRUSADE IN CHINA, 1938-1945, by Michael Schaller (Columbia; \$14.95). An inquest, the coroner being a young American historian who examines the corpse of American China policy and comes up with several villains, the most notable being the late Patrick Hurley, who, as President Roosevelt's trouble-shooter and, later, as the American Ambassador to Chungking, developed an unwarranted devotion to Chiang Kai-shek and an obsessional hostility to anything and anyone called Communist. With a few exceptions, American soldiers, diplomats, economic specialists, and all-purpose meddlers ineptly followed up an excellent intuition—F.D.R.'s hunch that China was bound to be a great power and that we would be better off working with it than against it. How and why the United States eventually picked the loser is only one part of Schaller's tale, for he also blames our China venture for setting a number of unfortunate precedents, among them for the underground, underhand operations of the C.I.A.